The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1922.

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## OWNERS FORCE STRIKE—SAYS MINERS' CHIEF

Washington, April 8.—"If the coal owners had maintained their contract with us the present deplorable condition of affairs in the soft coal industry would not have arisen," said John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers to the house labor committee.

"All differences would have been settled by agreement and a suspension of work and a general shutdown in the industry avoided. The United Mine Workers regret the necessity for a long suspension of work by the union coal miners of the country. We have done everything humanly possible to avoid the suspension. For months past we have fought hard to induce the bituminous coal owners to keep faith with us and with the government and meet us in joint conference so that a new wage and working agreement might be made.

"In the face of the brazen and uncompromising attitude on the part of the coal owners the mine workers had no alternative but to quit their work when the agreement expired and await the making of another agreement fixing their schedule of wages and governing their conditions of employment.

"The responsibility for this condition must rest upon the shoulders of the coal owners, who have flagrantly and arrogantly refused to carry out their obligations and meet the mine workers in joint session or conference."

### LITHOGRAPHERS STICK.

New York, April 8.—The Amalgamated Lithographers of America present a fine exhibition of solidarity in their opposition to the anti-union policy of the national association of employing lithographers.

The bosses demand a 12½ per cent wage reduction, but their insistence for individual contracts and other anti-union conditions proves that they have set down the union rather than wages.

The strikers' women folk are being approached to by agents, superintendents and managers who go to the homes of the workers and attempt to interest the women, with oily talk, golden promises and lurid literature in individual contracts.

The workers claim that in no industry have employers gone so far to set trade unionism at defiance. Dinners, have been given, gratuities given and speeches of flowing oratory were accepted by the workers, who applauded the artistic efforts of the bosses and their retainers.

When the test came, however, the unionists walked out as a man. They were joined in many cases by workers who could not withstand the wave of solidarity, and the attempt to smash the lithographers' union has proven a failure.

### U. S. FARMERS TO MIGRATE.

Ottawa, Ontario, April 8.—Canadian officials expect a great migration of U. S. farmers from the United States the coming year. Government investigators report that farm conditions in the United States will force these farmers to move. One of these investigators says:

"Thirty-six per cent of the United States farmers are tenants and the price of land has reached from $200 to $500 an acre. Owners of cheap, high-priced lands must have large financial returns per acre to pay for their investment; but this is impossible for the tenants with wheat and corn at their present prices. Moreover, tenants have got to move. There is no cheap farm land for homeseekers anywhere left in the western states. I found 49 cars of settlers' goods passing one town over the line. The United States railways are making one-fare round-trip rates to Canada for the first time in 16 years, which will help enormously in bringing settlers to Canada who want to investigate conditions."

### ERROR COSTLY TO LABOR.

Seattle, Wash., April 8.—Organized labor must start its initiative fight for a compensation law all over again because a decimal point was overlooked and what was intended to be "5.2 weeks" read "52 weeks." A court reporter was employed to make the copies of the bill in the office of the secretary of state. In checking over the additional copies it was found that Maryland general assembly, which voted to place the "women's declaration of independence" on the walls of the main corridor of the state house.

The "statesmen" did not awake until it was discovered that the "declaration" was a compilation of members who voted against the ratification of the nineteenth amendment. The act was hastily annulled.

The incident proves the brilliancy of these "statesmen" who were lined up like cattle by politicians when they repealed the railroad full crew bill.

### OPPOSE HANDCUFFERS.

Denver, April 8.—Opposition to the state industrial commission's increasing among citizens who have no connection with organized labor, on these citizens have come to realize that the plan proposed by cheap-wage employers for handling industrial peace, and that their use—purpose is to enslave the worker. Under the proposed law a worker can not strike for 30 days. The commission sets wages. Colorado is the first state to enact such legislation, which was imported from Canada, following the Colorado mine strike of 1913 that culminated in the Ludlow massacre.

### THE JUDICIAL INTELLECT.

Sydney, New South Wales, April 8.—"The judicial intellect is a queer thing," said Justice Austral Webb. "It can get itself hopelessly entangled in questions which would not puzzle a sensible layman for five minutes. It can make the most simple matter astonishingly complex, and lose an obvious fact in a jungle of jargon.

"And while it delivers its judgments in the solemn language of impartiality it can voice the sentiments of a lopsided training and echo the prejudices of an ascendant group."

### CONTRACT BROKEN BY COAL OWNERS

Washington, April 8.—The contract between coal owners and miners that expired March 31 included this provision:

"That an interstate joint conference should be held prior to April 1, 1922, the time and place for holding such meeting to be referred to a committee of two operators and two members from each state herein represented, together with the international officials of the United Mine Workers of America."

This agreement was between the miners and coal owners in the central competitive field (western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois). This field is the base for all bituminous wage movements. The coal owners refused to meet the miners who have been forced to strike, and the contract breakers make no defense of their dishonorable act.

### LIVING EXPENSES NOT MET BY MINERS

Washington, April 8.—In many coal mining centers the cost of living is greater than the miner's earning capacity, Commissioner of Labor Statistics Stewart told the house labor committee.

The commissioner said that agents of his department obtained data from 25 families in a number of towns in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. It was shown that the average pay of the miner was lower than the average cost of living.

"Nobody knows how many mines there are," he said. "The number is constantly coming and going. There are many snowbird mines producing about enough for local needs, and conditions in some properties are not at all good, from the miners' standpoint, as in others."

### CAN PAY LIVING WAGE.

Washington, April 8.—Industry can pay living wages, but it is clearly the intention of capitalists, not to do so, said B. M. Jewell, president of the railway employes' department, A. F. of L., before the railroad labor board. The unionist stated that an analysis of the possibility of physical production undertaken by competent economists, showed that the physical resources, the labor power and the scientific knowledge of the United States are such that a living is possible for all who work if industry were directed to that end.

"That industry does not intend to pay this living wage is clear from the way in which it squeezed the workers and farmers during the two periods of inflation and deflation," asserted President Jewell. He also charged that the United States is using the demand of the railroads for additional wage cuts as an excuse for raids on the income of all the wage earners and farmers, when they therefore found the present depression.

"This policy is pursued," he said, "because whatever, excepting wages, are deemed more important than the payment to wage earners as a means of buying regular supplies which their families need for health and comfort."

### DISFRANCHISE VOTERS.

Washington, April 8.—In a letter to United States Senator Gerry, a Rhode Island citizen protests against the disfranchisement of citizens of that state. He says:

"Can anything be done to right a great wrong that is going on here in Rhode Island? Rhode Island by keeping a great number of honest working men and women from voting at the polls. Here in Providence everybody who wants to register as a voter has to go to the office between 9 o'clock in the morning and 5 o'clock in the afternoon. This just the time when laboring people are at work and they can not go and register without losing their time or their jobs, or both. It is not so in other states. Why must it be here?

"If men and women do not register before the 4 o'clock in the afternoon they can not vote in November. If they can not vote, they are at the mercy of anybody can. We want justice, not mercy."

### WOMEN TRAP POLITICIANS.

Annapolis, Md., April 8.—Women are having a due share in the work of Maryland general assembly, which voted to place the "women's declaration of independence" on the walls of the main corridor of the state house.

The "statesmen" did not awake until it was discovered that the "declaration" was a compilation of members who voted against the ratification of the nineteenth amendment. The act was hastily annulled.

The incident proves the brilliancy of these "statesmen" who were lined up like cattle by politicians when they repealed the railroad full crew bill.

### DAUGHERTY ASSAILED.

Washington, April 8.—"Spoilsman who would destroy civil service" is the way Attorney General Daugherty is being referred to because of his opposition to the civil service.

The claim that he could 'get twice the amount of work done in the department of justice if the civil service employes were it not for the handicaps imposed by the civil service requirements" was made by members of the National Federation of Federal Employes. President Sterrard of the federation declared that government employes "are made the victims of sweeping reductions based upon limited observation, limited experience and no facts."

### PROFITS IN SMELTING.

New York, April 8.—The United States smelting and refining company reports a profit last year of $1,122,572. This sum, amount is made after all charges and federal taxes have been paid and substantial sums placed in the various depreciation funds.

# LABOR WILL RESIST CONTRACT-BREAKING COAL OWNERS

By PRESIDENT GOMPERS, IN AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

Whatever may be the situation in the coal mines, when these lines are read, the following statements will stand true: The owners were bound by mine agreement to meet and confer with the mine workers regarding terms and conditions of work, and it was the clear intent of that agreement that it be carried out in good faith. The government of the United States, through cabinet officers, allowed the impression to go forth that a "fight to a knock-out" seemed to be in store.

The government of the United States, through a cabinet officer, also made it clear that while there was no means of compelling a conference and that while no legal process would be used in advance of a strike, there would be court action in the event of a strike, which could mean nothing other than the use of injunctions.

It was shown conclusively by the miners that the wage reduction demanded by the mine operators would affect the price of coal, not to exceed 4 cents per ton, while it would mean virtual starvation for the miners.

The concise truth of the situation is that the mine owners have resorted to every bit of trickery, fallacious, innuendo, hypocrisy and deception which they could command, in an effort to swell already exorbitant profits and wreck the mine workers' union.

Great stress has been laid by mine owners upon the statement that in the event of a strike there was sufficient coal above ground to prevent public inconvenience for a considerable time. The clear truth is that, in the event of a strike, the mine owners will proclaim to the world that the public is suffering the direst distress that the miners are on the road to victory.

Beyond doubt the mine owners have carefully planned their program with the view to charging from the start every obstacle to absolute autocracy in the mines, the only effective obstacle to unlimited robbery of the public and the only effective obstacle to unlimited exploitation of the mine workers.

It is the height of unprincipled brutality to suggest that a partial shortage of coal, in the event of a strike, may be the means of gaining public sympathy and support for the most ruthless, conscienceless pirates and profiteers in American industrial life.

American labor is unwilling to believe that American citizenship generally gives its sympathies to brutality and injustice on such terms.

But, come what may, let this be made clear to all: The American labor movement stands unequivocally, irrevocably, with the mine workers of America in this and every struggle for justice, against autocratic domination by employers whose chief aim is profit and whose last thought is for the peace of humanity that produces for the benefit and progress of society.

The men who go down in the earth to dig the coal that fires the furnaces of the nation and warms its homes shall not be crucified on the altar of greed! The whole strength of the great, humanitarian movement is mobilized against that brutal project.

It is less than a half century since among the clergy of England the question of whether mines have souls was under debate; less than that since all children were born under-ground; less than that in America since women and children were rescued from the mines of Pennsylvania. United States and other fathers made free by the strength of organization. The conditions which the organized miners have abolished are the conditions to which the mine owners want to return.

United American labor proclaims that there shall be no going back!

## IGNORE LABOR EXPLOITATION BUT BEMOAN "HIGH" WAGES

New York, April 8.—The trafficking in labor and abnormal increases in the cost of material are responsible for the high cost of building, said Samuel Untermyer, counsel for the Lockwood building committee, in a letter to the New York Times.

This newspaper is intensely virtuous when discussing labor, but always turns its blind eye toward contractors and material men that the Lockwood committee have exposed. Recently the editor expressed the sentiment that Mr. Untermyer "has shown a certain leniency toward the building unions."

This is the usual preliminary snarl of the kept press to "get in line and do our bidding."

Instead of becoming alarmed, the attorney writes a column article to this publication, and asks, in effect, if it is staging the "stop thief" stunt for exploiting contractors and profiteering material men.

The attorney makes it clear that the Lockwood committee has proved that these contractors charge customers from 50 to 279 per cent more than the workers receive. Where labor costs $5.50, the customer was charged $8.50. Workers paid 79 cents an hour are charged for at the rate of $3 an hour. Foremen who are paid $10 a day are charged for at the rate of $18. A steam fitter and helper who are jointly paid $16 a day cost the customer $36.

"The persistent refusal of the Employers' association to deal directly with the unions is indefensible," said Mr. Untermyer. "They could have secured workable efficiency standards that, in my judgment, would add at least 20 per cent to the efficiency of labor. There is nothing impracticable about such a plan. But I am not at all sure that that is what the particular brand of employers who are nestled under the protecting wing of the building trades employers' association really want.

"What they want is to continue to exploit labor as they have done in the past. That is the true reason why we cannot get peace in this industry.

"It will be time enough to talk about reducing the wage scale when this exploitation of labor has been ended, as it will be when our committee has completed its prosecutions of the criminal members of the employers' association."

### *Sham Solidarity Rejected by Labor*

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, April 8.—The trades and labor council has unanimously rejected the invitation of the workers' communistic party of Canada that the trade unions join with it in a May day celebration. The council indorsed the report of its executive committee which opposed accepting the invitation "inasmuch as the workers' party of Canada is a communist organization, affiliated with and taking its instructions from Moscow and that the avowed object of this organization is to overthrow existing political and industrial organizations of the world, replacing them by organizations of a revolutionary character."

In urging acceptance of the invitation two communists pleaded with the unionists to "at least present a show of solidarity." This was received with laughter by the unionists, who reminded their visitors of their attempt to smash the trade union movement in 1919 by establishing a so-called one big union, which has since disappeared.

"If you favor solidarity of the workers, stop slandering and destroy the workers' organizations," said the unionists.

### BOARD INCOMPETENT?

Washington, April 8.—The United States shipping board was referred to as "an incompetent set" by Senator Dial, of South Carolina, in opposing the proposed ship subsidy bill.

"The fact is," he continued, "that, instead of trying to look out for the interests of the people, it tries to keep them from carrying on business. I believe that of something in the neighborhood of 1,500 steel ships, they were operating some time ago only 382. It is even claimed that they did not have enough ships in commission to carry coal. This forces the Europeans to the starving people of Russia. So, Mr. President, I think that congress ought to be very slow to throw away any more money on such an incompetent set as the shipping board."

### WOULD LURE BUILDERS.

Washington, April 8.—Anti-union influences are resorting to the old method of quoting building permits in an effort to lure building crafts, it was charged by unions which are already overcrowded with idle workers, says Secretary-Treasurer Spencer of the building trades department. A. F. of L. In Denver, Minneapolis and Toledo and other cities efforts are being made to import labor under this guise to break existing conditions.

"These building permits do not necessarily mean that buildings will be erected" said Secretary Spencer. "Often they are used by promoters and seekers of credit."

### RENEW AGREEMENT.

Cheyenne, Wyo., April 8.—Typographical union No. 114 has renewed its agreement with the Cheyenne Newspaper Publishers' association for one year.

### "MOLDING" PUBLIC OPINON.

Washington, April 8.—"Retail food costs down 3 per cent in single month," is the caption under which that a local newspaper puts over this food cost announcement by the bureau of labor statistics.

"During the month from February 15, 1922, to March 15, 1922, there were the following decreases: In Detroit, Philadelphia, Rochester, Salt Lake City and Scranton, 2 per cent; in Norfolk and San Francisco, 1 per cent; in Chicago, Cincinnati, Columbus, Little Rock, Louisville, Mobile, Minneapolis, New Orleans and St. Louis, 3 per cent.

"The average decrease for the above is 1¾ per cent.

### WILL PASS ON AWARDS.

New York, April 8.—In the new agreement between Women's Wrecking Co., 95 and the demolition contractors' association provision is made for all "disputes" subject to ratification by both parties to contract.

This change in arbitration procedure is because of a recent award by federal City and Scranton, 2 per cent; in Norfolk, and San Francisco, 2 per cent; in Chicago, Cincinnati, Columbus, Little Rock, Louisville, Mobile, Minneapolis, New Orleans and St. Louis, 3 per cent.

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## Financial Interests Are Behind Coal Owners

Washington, April 8.—"What great interests are back of the mine owners that are powerful and arrogant enough to defy the government itself?" asked "who own the coal mines?" asked Congressman Browne in a speech in the house today.

"I will answer," replied the Wisconsin lawmaker, "the railroads and the United States steel corporation own over 75 per cent of the coal mines in the United States, both anthracite and bituminous, and completely control the output of coal. The banks finance the institutions own the stock in these railroads and, therefore, the railroads and steel and coal railroads' I answer again, they are owned by the following institutions:

"J. P. Morgan Co.

"First National Bank of New York.

"Equitable Trust Co.

"Guaranty Trust Co.

"Equitable Life Assurance Asso. of the United States.

"Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York.

"American Surety Co.

"Morton Trust Co.

"New York Trust Co.

"Chase National Bank.

"United States Steel Corp.

"As an illustration of how the various railroads are doing business before the public in their own name, but in reality are controlled by one of the large aggregations of capital mentioned, take the United States coal and coke company.

"All of the stock of this company, amounting to $2,000,000, is owned by the United States steel company (capital stock $1,403,400), which is owned by the Morgan-Rockefeller-Baker New Jersey organization. $44,000,000 (capitalization $44,000,000 common and $22,240,000 preferred.) All of the capital stock of the Pedrail steel corporation is owned by the United States steel corporation.

"In the same way the United States coal corporation owns the Pocahontas coal and coke company, and going further we find that the J. P. Morgan Co., with financial institution just named hold a majority interest in the United States steel corporation.

"A group of 25 men control 82 per cent of the country's steam transportation system, operating 211,260 miles of railroad. Of these 25 men there are 19 directorships. This means that they average nearly eight directorships apiece. These 25 men sit together on the board of directors of 99 banks and financial institutions; these 25 men are as follows:

William Rockefeller, H. W. Rockefeller, H. W. De Forest, A. H. Smith, G. F. Baker, H. S. Vanderbilt, Mortimer L. Schiff, Nicholas County, A. W. Krech, F. N. Davis, Fairfax Harrison, W. C. Attorney, J. E. Aldred, Charles Steele, Howard Elliott, M. H. Smith, Percy Rockefeller, E. T. Stotesbury, Kruttschnitt, Charles E. Ingersoll, E. T. Stotesbury, E. V. R. Thayer, T. De Witt Cuyler, H. Walters.

"It should be noted that the first eight men referring to the first group, the Rockefeller circle, centering around the house of Morgan and the National City Bank of New York.

"I have thus shown that the men that I have named own coal and our railroads and control financial institutions strong enough to dominate our entire banking system. I will place in the Record a chart which will illustrate how our coal mines, railroads, and a dozen New York City banks are practically controlled by the Rockefeller-Morgan interests, the industrial life of the nation."

## Boston Police Head Dead; Strike Recalled

Boston, April 8.—Police Commissioner Curtis, who precipitated and then broke the policemen's strike in 1919, died suddenly at his home in this city. As a result of the strike Governor Coolidge landed in the vice presidential chair at Washington.

For years Boston policemen endeavored to remedy bad conditions, which included inadequate wages, unreasonable hours and rotten police houses that in some cases were infested with rodents. As a last resort the policemen affiliated with the A. F. of L. Commissioner Curtis then issued an order which forbade the policemen from joining any organization. A strict interpretation of the order included fraternal, social and even religious organizations. The only exceptions were ex-veterans' associations.

The police force was demoralized as the committee refused to remedy conditions and denied policemen the right to unite for that purpose. The situation became so critical that the mayor appointed a committee of 34 leading citizens to investigate and submit proposals to remedy conditions. The committee's report was ignored by the mayor and the chamber of commerce and every Boston newspaper with one exception. When the report was presented to Commissioner Curtis he said: "This is my business and I will take care of it myself." Then he discharged 19 policemen who were active in improving conditions.

Despairing of securing justice, the police declared that they were forced to strike. With weeks of notice and ample men, including 400 "loyal" policemen, the commissioner made no effort to protect the city from the lawless element between the hours of 6:45 p. m. and 8 a. m. the next morning. It was openly charged that he would look upon a sort the police as a direct affront to position, as public opinion would annihilate the new union and break the strike.

Later Governor Coolidge appeared on the scene. He ignored nation-wide attention, and was featured like a comic opera star or a base ball umpire hitter.

How much the commissioner and the governor desired peace and justice, is indicated by this statement issued by Mayor Peters on September 9, 1919:

"The committee of thirty-eight appointed by me, and myself, have striven every human effort to avoid the strike of the policemen but regret their co-operation from the police commissioner and no help or practical suggestions from the governor."

### *Would Deunionize Building Industry*

Chicago, April 8.—"The drive is on to put the Chicago building industry on the anti-union basis," according to the committee on publicity, representing organized publicity, which includes the building engineers, lathers, composition roofers, slate and tile roofers, sheet metal workers and cement workers.

"The representatives of big business men, the capitalists, the exploiters of labor, organized in the so-called 'citizens' committee,' have come out with their plan for the deunionization program.

"They demand that any union man of these 19 trades seeking work must apply individually and sign an agreement guarantee that he will not strike, but work peacefully under conditions of the (Landis) award—with non-union men.

"Their object is to be able to divide labor's ranks so they may be easily beaten and the 'open shop' principle be established in the city.

"The 'open shop' means that the hours, wages and conditions, dictated from the 'citizens' committee,' will determine wages and working conditions. Then they will be ready to build the houses—have nothing to say.

"To attain this object they have organized on a national scale and piled up millions of dollars contributed by profiteers, while the union workers, who have been become willing and efficient tools in their campaign to destroy our unions."

### COMPANY "UNION" FAILS.

Bonners Ferry, Idaho, April 8.—The Bonners Ferry lumber company has notified employes that after May 1 the "open shop company" union," known as the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen, agreed to, if these workers decide to haul their eight-hour day they must accept a wage cut of $1 a day. Under the A. F. of L. unorganized there is nothing to prevent employers from taking away the extra two hours at the $2.66 rate.

The same news item informs that the Industrial Union of Timber Workers, "is to force down the wage scale" by refusing to work the hours their leisure. Right down in their hearts all free men hate the "open shop" day. They would put the white workers of the north on the same level as the negro workers and the living conditions of the colored workers of the south."

### FIGURES ARE UNFAIR.

New York, April 8.—Vice President Murray of the United Mine Workers calls attention to the anti-union attitude of the national industrial conference board in publishing figures for coal owners in their fight against the mine workers.

"This industrial board," said the vice president, "is a notorious anti-union organization whose figures are not authentic, but are colored to suit the purposes of its backers. The board represents a score of anti-union organizations of employers."

### FAVOR OPEN FORUMS.

Cheyenne, Wyo., April 8.—Open forums as a means to reach the public was indorsed by the state federation of labor convention.

### BUT WHO MAKES THE LAWS?

Boston, April 8.—State Bank Commissioner Allen Bent has ordered investigations for defalcation when 2 banks have been violated.

# *ROADS AID PRIVATE SHOPS U. S. TREASURY FOOTS BILL*

## Looting Overlooked By Those Who Learnedly Discuss "the Wastefulness of Government Control of Railroads."

Washington, April 8.—The interstate commerce commission has upheld the corporated railroad shop employes' claim that railroads have mulcted the public of millions of dollars by contracting their repair work for costs vastly in excess of what the work could be done for in the railroad's shops.

This gouging was done during the first six months following the return of the roads to their owners. Under the terms of the Cummins-Esch law the railroads were guaranteed their operating expenses by the government during this six-months' period. The railroads entered into these contracts and the government foots the bill.

The commission finds that almost the first thing the Pennsylvania railroad did when the government returned its property was to contract with private shops for repair work at an excess cost of more than $3,000,000. It was shown that on one type of locomotive the Pennsylvania's repair cost in its own shop was $9,455, as compared with $25,799 it paid to the Baldwin locomotive works. This did not include the cost of 32 inspectors the road was permitted to place in the Baldwin plant. The commission says that if the officials of this road made "a more thorough survey" of their facilities the railroad's shops could do this work if there was "an appropriate co-ordination of efforts."

This reflection on railroad management is followed by evidence that raises the question of ordinary honesty. It was shown that the Pennsylvania's contract with the Baldwin concern provided that in all cases of error or defects in the work, thereby necessitating that the work be done the second time, the railroad would pay for this extra work. In hundreds of cases this work was done the second time.

The Baldwin company was given these contracts without competitive bidding and under a system which, Chairman McChord of the commission said, "made it possible for the Baldwin company actually to profit by its negligent or inefficient work." In each case where it did the greater the amount of its 90 per cent for overhead and the greater the amount of its 15 per cent for profit.

In the case of the New York Central railroad the commission reports that repair costs for 108 locomotives in four private repair shops averaged $21,912.33 The corresponding cost of similar repairs on 329 locomotives in the company's shops averaged $5,927.45, or $15,984.88 less than the general average contract cost. On this basis, the railroad paid an excess of $1,726,367.04 to the contract shops for repairing 108 locomotives.

This terrific gouging of the people was viewed sympathetically by some of the commissioners, who insisted that the railroad officials should not be condemned. This is Commissioner Campbell's defense of the New York Central:

"This contract was made at a time when moit everyone connected with the operation of the railroad was acting under pressure, traffic was heavy and heavier traffic was in prospect. Naturally, there must have been more or less nervous haste."

## DEMOCRACY IN MEXICO URGED BY UNIONISTS

Washington, April 8.—Through the work of the department of trade union movement it will be impossible hereafter for General Obregon, Mexico's revolutionary chief, to be elected re-election at the convention just adjourned here.

In referring to service of these trade unionists, Editor Drake, of the Chihuahua, Mexico, Journal says:

"It would be difficult to imagine a more wild world of wonders. McCarthy is a disciplinarian. Treitmes is a philosopher. McCarthy believes in getting things done as quickly as possible. Tveitmoe believes that there is no hurry and no ending to Time, and he has a long range vision which nothing matters much. McCarthy places very little reliance in the average person, but he rarely is disappointed. Tveitmoe loves his fellow-man, shit his weaknesses, and is rarely fooled.

"Thus they have journeyed down the years together, 'P. H.' using his wits and spur, and Tveitmoe reading poetry and studying astronomy.

"Finally the end has come, as it always does.

"Unquestionably, each has brought happiness to many. McCarthy through his ability to secure more for his people in wages and shorter conditions for men who toil not underground, and through his innumerable acts of kindness and unselfish aid to every unfortunate creature.

"Tveitmoe, that he has imparted, through which both have passed, many lives have been made worth while. May peace be with them throughout the remainder of their journey."

### TO "EDUCATE" PUBLIC.

New York, April 8. — The national economic association has been formed in this city for the purpose of "educating the people on the tariff and taxation" and to present the proper solution for same."

The venture was launched at a luncheon at the Bankers' club, 120 Broadway, at which a meeting was called. It was stated, by S. Stanwood Menken, who formed that 100 per cent American organization known as the national security league. Lindley M. Garrison, former secretary of war, acted as chairman of the meeting. The association is receiver for the Brooklyn rapid transit company and has refused to permit employes of that company to organize.

These are the gentlemen who will "educate" the American worker "on the present economic situation and its proper solution."

### McCARTHY STEPS DOWN.

San Francisco, April 8.—After serving 8 years as president of the California state building trades council, P. H. McCarthy declined a renomination at the annual convention and was succeeded by First Vice President MacDonald. By a unanimous vote the convention reelected McCarthy past president and general advisor.

Secretary-Treasurer Tveitmoe, who also served for 21 years, refused because of ill health.

The convention agreed to plans for a state-wide organizing campaign and an aggressive fight against the anti-union "American" shop.

### 210 MINE FATALITIES.

Washington, April 8.—3 toll of 210 lives was taken by the coal mines of the United States in the month of February, according to reports to the United States bureau of mines. In the corresponding month last year there were 149 fatal accidents in the coal mines. Statistical figures the report, an increase of 60 fatalities, or about 21 per cent.

## LABOR EDITOR LAUDS TWO UNION VETERANS

Los Angeles, Cal., April 8.—After the annual reports of the president and secretary-treasurer of the California state building trades council, P. H. McCarthy and Tveitmoe declined re-election at the convention just adjourned here.

In referring to service of these trade unionists, Editor Drake, of the Chihuahua, Mexico, Journal says:

"It would be difficult to imagine a more wild world of wonders. McCarthy is a disciplinarian. Treitmes is a philosopher. McCarthy believes in getting things done as quickly as possible. Tveitmoe believes that there is no hurry and no ending to Time, and he has a long range vision which nothing matters much. McCarthy places very little reliance in the average person, but he rarely is disappointed. Tveitmoe loves his fellow-man, shit his weaknesses, and is rarely fooled.

"Thus they have journeyed down the years together, 'P. H.' using his wits and spur, and Tveitmoe reading poetry and studying astronomy.

"Finally the end has come, as it always does.

"Unquestionably, each has brought happiness to many. McCarthy through his ability to secure more for his people in wages and shorter conditions for men who toil not underground, and through innumerable acts of kindness and unselfish aid to every unfortunate creature.

"Tveitmoe, that he has imparted, through which both have passed, many lives have been made worth while. May peace be with them throughout the remainder of their journey."

### POOR HARVESTER TRUST.

Chicago, April 8.—It is in order to pass resolutions of sympathy for the International harvester company.

The occasion for sorrow is the truant announcement that last year its clear profit was only $4,149,900. Large sums were spent during the various funds, princely salaries and bonuses, dividends on managers, interest on bonds were made, $4,142,800 profit is not enough to meet interest on common stock and stock dividends.

The common stock does not represent a single dollar of investment and the stock dividends were issued because the profits had been piled up in recent years. In 1920 the clear profits were $15,455,385.

Now the trust bemoans that profits are not large enough to pay interest on bonds and the profits of other years.

Instead of giving farmers some of the benefits of their profits through lower prices the profits are hidden.

### RATES GAVE SCANT LIVING.

Sydney, New South Wales, April 8.—"Labor's enemies will urge that the figures for the year 1921 show that the workers paid for skilled and unskilled labor are fairly level with the increase in the cost of living," says the Australian Worker.

"But they very carefully overlook the fact that the rates of wages have been fixed without a proper regard to the cost of living and that at most they constitute a bare living wage only.

"The truth is that during the last 10 years the workers have been subjected to a series of cuts which no one reason alone the government is justified in demanding that the workers should be paid something like a decent living wage."

### STEREOTYPERS GAIN.

Passaic, N. J., April 8.—Stereotypers employed in this city and at Paterson have secured a wage increase of $2 a week, the new scale being considered by stereotypers union as a victory.